

TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, FLORIDA
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008
GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER, 4580 1st STREET, GRANT VALKARIA, FL 32949

The Workshop Meeting of the Town of Grant-Valkaria, Florida, Town Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Del Yonts followed by the Pledge, and roll call to the Council Members, with the following present:

Mayor – Del Yonts	Town Administrator Richard Hood
Seat No. 1 – Joe Hackford, Vice Mayor	Town Clerk Susanne Krueger
Seat No. 2 – Danielle Morgan	
Seat No. 3 – Pat Bryan	
Seat No. 4 – Cathy DeMott	
Seat No. 5 – Dan Faden	
Seat No. 6 – Jason Mahaney	

WORKSHOP ITEM

- 1) Presentation by Brevard County Fire Rescue & Department of Forestry
 - Discussion of Fire Protection Service & What Options Are Available For People Outside Of The 5-Mile Distance From A Fire House Or 1,000 Feet Of A Hydrant
 - Discussion of Fire Wells/Drafting Hydrants/Grants Availability

Mayor Yonts gave the floor to the Brevard County Fire Rescue and the Division of Forestry who introduced themselves as:

- Brad Hall, Operations Chief, Brevard County Fire Rescue
- Doug Carter, Assistant Fire Marshall, Brevard County Fire Rescue
- Cliff Frazier, Mitigation Specialist, Division of Forestry
- Ron Weiss, Supervisor, Division of Forestry

Ron Weiss stated that the numerous undeveloped properties in Town can be managed through the Harvest Bill where Division of Forestry helps manage lands. He has established a partnership with Brevard County Fire Rescue and EEL's to manage the lands through controlled burns. If the Town wishes to establish a Community Wildfire Protection, the Division of Forestry will work together with the Town to obtain grants and achieve the wildfire protection plan.

Cliff Frazier stated that if the Town wishes to be a Fire Wise Community, homeowners would be taught to protect their homes. The process would involve the Division of Forestry performing an assessment; they would then get with Ron Weiss and Brevard County Fire Rescue to come up with a plan and present it to the Town; if accepted, then they would rectify the problem.

Ron Weiss stated that he will drop off a book designed for planner and communities.

Several people from the audience asked questions:

- Council Member DeMott – does fire wise communities tie into insurance ratings? Chief Hall answered that he does not think that it effects ISO ratings.
- Jamie Seymour – should a canopy be cleared 30 feet from perimeter? Mr. Weiss stated that canopy clearing protects the house and provides firefighters room to fight fires.
- Jo Faden – do you have brochures? Mr. Frazier stated that he will leave a stack of them to be taken back to Town Hall for the public.
- Gus Rodriguez – what is rate needed to use straight hose and what is the minimum? Mr. Carter stated that the minimum would be 450 gallons per minute or 30,000 gallons per hour, per water source; largest County tanker holds 3,000 gallons; 300-750 gallons are held on the trucks.
- Peter Crawford – what if it is less
- Homer King – people on the west side of Grant Road are left high and dry. He has a 22 acre lake in front of his home and it will cost \$1500 to put a dry hydrant in but the County can come in and use the hydrant to protect another home. What will the Council do, and are there grants available?
- George Ferry – MSTU was dropped under 1 mill about a year or two ago. If we put MSTU in and decrease the assessment it would be good.
- Council Member Morgan – is the five mile rating to the driveway or structure?
- Skip Burdette – he designed and patented a system that cools 100% of roof and 45% of surrounding area
- George Wolfe – interested in fire suppression system; there are 9 hydrants in Riverview Terrace Subdivision, was concerned about ownership of hydrants, are they adequate and the wells are 450 feet deep. Mr. Carter stated that state statute required 750 gallons per minute for the subdivision.
- Allen Webb – should be a community wide effort, if another station is needed we should have a cost share with County
- Denni Burr – what is minimum requirement for water supply, can water be used from swimming pools. Chief Hall stated that fire trucks need to be 20 feet from water sources and swimming pools are not a good choice. He stated that the County just purchased 4 turbo draft units where we can use lakes and get 600 gallons of water within 100 feet.
- Council Member Bryan- if neighbors have pond, can the Fire Department come out and look at the pond to determine if they can use it? Chief Hall stated that if someone has a pond and wants to reduce their rates to contact him.
- Jamie Seymour – can dry hydrants be used at the river? Chief Hall stated that the river creates problems with sea life.
- Jean Murray – not near a hydrant, on a flag lot
- Mark Pagliarulo – does the fire department have a maps that shows deep wells, lakes, etc? Chief Hall acknowledged that they do have these maps.
- Vice Mayor Hackford – Ed Irons installed a well with other neighbors, paid \$1500 each, and saved that much in insurance in the first year.

- Mayor Yonts requested that we talk to Palm Bay about a auto aid agreement to cover people where Homer King resides who are outside of the five mile limit of a County fire station.
- Tim Olsen – retired Cocoa fire fighter asked for an explanation of auto aid. Chief Hall stated that the mutual aid is with all fire departments in the County; auto aid is the immediate response of another fire department without County responding first. Mr. Olsen would like the town to help waive permitting if needed, i.e., limit of two wells per property.
- Vice Mayor Hackford – how are the selection of fire houses determined and how do we petition for one? Chief Hall responded that they are based on response time, growth and location. He advised Town Administrator Hood to contact Chief Farmer about petitioning for a fire house.
- Barbara – what is response time for fire and medical? Chief Hall stated that it is less than 8 minutes.

Ron Weiss stated that the recommended size of drafting wells from the County and St. Johns River Water Management District is 5 inches. He stated that the Division of Forestry will be located at Station 87 along with the County Fire Rescue.

Chief Hall stated that the two turbo drafting trucks will be stationed at Station 87 and Station 86.

Council Member Faden requested that the Town assess all ponds in the Town, enter into the Community Wild Fire Plan, push the auto agreement with Palm Bay, clear brush, protect ourselves and property, and check with Palm Bay on future fire stations.

Motions by Vice Mayor Hackford, second by Council Member Faden, and vote unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

(signature on file)

ATTEST:

Del Yonts, Mayor

(signature on file)

Susanne Krueger, MMC, IIMC, Town Clerk